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Registration #5966

April 29, 2011

## MEDIA ADVISORY

### PRESIDENT MARTINELLI OF PANAMA TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC GROWTH IN LIVE WEBCAST FROM THE WOODROW WILSON CENTER

WASHINGTON - After having met with President Obama at the White House on Thursday to discuss progress on the U.S.- Panama Free Trade Agreement, Panamanian President Ricardo Martinelli will participate in a live webcast of a Wilson Center Director's Forum at 1:00 p.m., today, Friday, April 29. The event, which is being held at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and moderated by Dr. Cynthia Arnson, will be streamed live through Panama's website and will feature a candid discussion with President Martinelli about economic growth and development in Panama and Latin America.

**TIME:** 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. EST

**DATE:** TODAY  
Friday, April 29, 2011

**WEBCAST ADDRESS:** [www.meetpanama.com.pa](http://www.meetpanama.com.pa)

**CONTACT:** Chad Kolt  
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2011 APR 29 PM 1:25

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#### About President Martinelli:

Ricardo Martinelli, leader of the Democratic Change Party, was elected president of the Republic of Panama in a historic election in 2009. Under his presidential leadership, Panama has become one of the most welcoming countries for business and foreign investment. President Martinelli's pro-growth policy focus on long-term macroeconomic stability, fiscal discipline and continued infrastructure modernization is positioning Panama to deliver on the promise of even greater prosperity.

#### About the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars:

The Center is the living, national memorial to President Wilson established by Congress in 1968 and headquartered in Washington, D.C. It is a nonpartisan institution, supported by public and private funds, engaged in the study of national and world affairs. The Center establishes and maintains a lively, neutral forum for free and informed dialogue.

*This information is being distributed on behalf of the Republic of Panama by HDMK, LLC. Additional information is on file with the U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.*



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April 28, 2011  
For Immediate Release

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## STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT RICARDO MARTINELLI FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA AT THE WHITE HOUSE

"The people of Panama and the United States have a rich tradition of friendship and cooperation. Our long partnership is founded on common values and common interests, and rooted in a mutual commitment to providing a better life for the citizens of our countries.

"I want to thank President Obama today for the opportunity to discuss the important issues which face our two countries. Economic growth and job creation, as well as peace and security in the region, are important areas where the U.S. and Panama are striving for the same goals and we are gratified to be working together as one to achieve them.

"We are especially proud to be moving forward toward unprecedented new opportunities to expand our trade relationship with the United States. A free trade agreement between our two countries will create jobs in both countries. It will create more economic growth in Panama and here in the United States, but, will also have far reaching benefits throughout the region. By creating more opportunities for investment and economic growth, we build a strong defense against the regional difficulties that have long plagued the people of Latin America.

"When I met briefly with President Obama in New York last summer, we discussed finishing our work on the trade agreement. I said at the time, 'We are ready when you are, Mr. President.' I am gratified that today we take a huge step together in cementing our already strong friendship and working toward a brighter economic future as the best of trading partners."

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For Immediate Release  
April 18, 2011

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**STATEMENT BY VICE PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER, JUAN CARLOS VARELA, ON PROGRESS TOWARD U.S.-PANAMA TRADE AGREEMENT**

Juan Carlos Varela, Vice President and Foreign Minister of the Republic of Panama, issued the following statement in response to today's announcement by the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative that it was ready to move to the next stage of the process of finalizing the U.S.-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement, beginning technical discussions with Members of Congress on the draft implementing bill and draft Statement of Administrative Action:

"The announcement by USTR is very welcome news and puts Panama and the United States on a clear path to finalize a trade agreement that will promote economic growth and development between our countries and expand job opportunities for Panamanian and American workers.

"Panama's economy continues to grow into a very significant destination for U.S. companies and investors. Panama's imports increased by nearly twenty percent from 2009 to 2010 and Foreign Direct Investment grew five percent over the same period. In addition, Panama's investment grade debt rating further solidified our status as one of the leading global markets for international investment and financial services.

"We look forward to working closely with the Obama Administration and Members of Congress to pass the U.S.-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement at the earliest possible opportunity to begin realizing the excellent economic benefits it offers both countries."

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